

### **REMARKS**

Claim 1 has been amended to correct a typographical error in formula I. Support for this amendment is found at, for example, page 2, lines 10-14, of the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment does not narrow claim 1. Claims 1-14 are pending and at issue.

Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Bogeso (U.S. Patent No. 4,136,193).

Bogeso does not disclose the preparation of citalopram by a cyanide exchange reaction followed by a film distillation process as recited in the pending claims. Example 2 of Bogeso does not disclose purifying citalopram by a film distillation process. Furthermore, as admitted by the Examiner on page 2 of the July 14, 2003 Office Action, Example 3 of Bogeso does not prepare citalopram by a cyanide exchange reaction of a compound of formula 2 as recited in claim 1 of the pending application. See the penultimate paragraph on page 2 of the Office Action (“Although [Bogeso] doesn’t distill this citalopram it vacuum distills citalopram made by a synthesis where the 5-cyano group is made by the same type of cyanation of the 5-halo precursor which lacks the 1-3 (dimethylamino) propyl group”). Therefore, Bogeso does not anticipate claims 1-14. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Bogeso.

As discussed at page 1, lines 30-35, of the specification, citalopram prepared by certain cyanide exchange reactions have high molecular weight impurities including dimeric

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citalopram product can occur affecting the yield of the process. Furthermore, if the citalopram product and byproducts of degradation have roughly the same boiling point, the byproducts might not be removed by the distillation process resulting in a less pure final product. See, for example, JP 60082101 and GB2072025 submitted in the concurrently filed Information Disclosure Statement. Bogeso does not disclose or suggest the advantages of film distillation processes.

For the foregoing reasons, Bogeso does not render obvious the presently claimed process. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

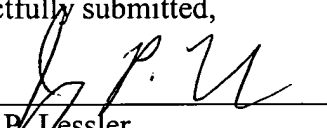
In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

  
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